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Pulsed Power/Plasma Science-2001 (PPPS-2001)

Summary Report 25 October 2001 Bob Reinovsky, Tom Hussey

Pulsed Power/Plasma Science 2001, the combined 13th IEEE Pulsed Power Conference and 28th IEEE International Conference on Plasma Science was conducted June 17–23, 2001 at the Rio Hotel in Las Vegas. A total of 1170 persons either pre-registered or registered at the Conference (including staff and exhibitors). Total on-site attendance was 1034 including registered participants, minicourse participants, staff and exhibitors:

Registered Participants	994
Complementary Exhibitors	15
Staff	19
Minicourse Only	6
Total	1034

Approximately 30 persons participated as exhibitors (including 15 complementary exhibitor's registrations). 123 participants identified companions (in addition to the 1034 registered persons) and 97 participants paid the token \$25 companion registration fee. The Rio Hotel counted 925 banquet attendees.

Total registered/paid ICOPS, PPC, and student attendance was:

Pulsed Power Conference	480
ICOPS	357
Students	157
Total	994

Pre-registration was encouraged in literature and through the Conference web-site. Prepayment was encouraged through a reduced registration fee and the promise of speedy on-site processing. Rapid on-site processing for prepaid participants was generally realized. Pre-registration without prepayment was accepted and encouraged. While fully half of the registration staff was devoted to processing pre-registered/unpaid participants, collecting payment proved to be time-consuming during peak registration periods. Interestingly "walk-in" registrants were frequently able to register faster—in only one line—than were pre-registered/unpaid participants during peak periods. As of June 1, there were 927 pre-registrations, increasing to 1029 pre-registrations at the start of registration. Approximately 150 (15%) "walk-in" registrations were accommodated on-site.

Of the \$434K ultimately collected from registration fees, \$261K (60%) was collected on or before June 1.

Approximately 45 new IEEE memberships were solicited through the efforts of Vernon Price. Complementary half-year membership supported by the PPPS-2001 budget.

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Registration Distribution				
	As of June 1		Final	
Pulsed Power Conference	446		480	
Member Prepaid		115		127
Member at Conference		44		58
Non-member Prepaid		138		141
Non-member at Conference		149		154
ICOPS	362		357	
Member Prepaid		92		97
Member at Conference		39		58
Non-member Prepaid		119		122
Non-member at Conference		112		80
Students	119		157	
Grand Totals	927		994	

Approximately one third of the participants reported a home address outside the United States.

Representative Attendance			
United States	687		
Russia	63		
Japan	49		
United Kingdom	42		
France	31		
Germany	22		
Israel	18		
Ukraine	4		

The technical program occupied 4-½ days including 45 oral sessions (in 5 parallel breakout tracks), 4 sessions of posters and 5 plenary sessions. Almost 900 abstracts were ultimately submitted to the Conference. Approximately 500 manuscripts will appear in the two-volume proceedings of the meeting.

The approach to the technical program was a combination of the ICOPS approach utilizing Technical Area Coordinators (TAC) and Session Organizers, and the PPC approach utilizing a Technical Program Committee (TPC). In the ICOPS approach, the nominal abstract is handled by a TAC and a session organizer. This approach provides an opportunity for the organizer to solicit abstracts and structure sessions in a more pro-active way. In the PPC approach, all abstracts are handled by the TPC, usually by subcommittee. This approach provides an excellent "one-shot" overview of the technical program but involves one relatively large meeting to generally sketch the program. PPPS-2001 used TAC and session organizers to prepare input for a Technical Program Committee meeting comprised of TACs and Conference/program chairs. The PPPS-2001 experience, while quite successful, experienced two difficulties:

- a) 1 technical area became unmanageably large, and we did not remedy that error early enough
- b) the well-meaning attempt to compress the technical program from an initial 6 to 5 parallel sessions was undertaken in haste, largely at the TPC meeting and coupled with the one unmanageably large technical area caused some difficulty.

With these caveats, however, each Standing Committee should carefully consider the considerable benefits of the approach used in PPPS-2001.

The Las Vegas conference location was chosen for its wide variety of excellent facilities and general appeal. It was generally well received. The Rio was chosen primarily because it offered a new (still incomplete in late 1998), generously sized facility with a highly competitive contractual package. The Conference had almost 100,000 square feet of space available for a 1000-person conference. Generous space eliminated what could have been several major issues.

As of this date, Conference finances still show a substantial surplus. Details are attached.

Budget Summary		
Total Income	\$578,425	
Total Expenses	434,905	
Budgeted return to IEEE	43,490	
Current Surplus	100,030	

Actual Conference income is 95% of pre-Conference estimate. Actual cost of work completed is 96% of budgeted cost of work completed.

Cash Flow Summary				
	Credits	Debits		
Cash on Hand	\$265,500			
NPSS Phelps	1,000			
Reimbursible Events	3,133			
Book Broker estimated	10,000			
NPSS Loan		-50,000		
Proceedings w/PPPS CD		-82,110		
IEEE Audit Fee		-3,000		
VE minicourse materials		-800		
CPA/Treasurer services		-2242		
Subtotal	141,481			
Budgeted return to IEEE		-43,490		
Current Surplus	97,991.			
PSAC Committee Exp		5000		
PPST Committee Exp		1000		
Projected Surplus	91,991			

For the first time at either Conference there was a significant industrial exhibit program that attracted 15 paid exhibits. Space and facilities at the Rio allowed excellent exposure for exhibits and response from exhibitors was universally positive.

Two Mincourses were offered. A Pulsed Power minicouse attracted 32 participants (at \$400 each) and a Vacuum Electronics minicourse attracted 48 participants (with rates averaging \$60 each). The NPSS provided \$1000 in Phelps Award funds to support attendance at minicourses. One \$500 grant was provided for 1 international participant for the pulsed power course and 5 \$100 grants were provided for student attendees at the Vacuum Electronics course.

A total of 12 student grants of \$500 each were made to US citizens (and PRA) Conference participants funded by the National Science Foundation, and the Conference provided an additional 4 grants of \$500 each to international students for participation in the Conference.

Three Conference awards: The PSAC Award, the Erwin Marx Award, and the Peter Haas Award were presented, two Pulsed Power Student Awards (sponsored by Pulsed Sciences Division of Titian Industries and by Pulsed Power Conferences, Inc.) were presented, and two new IEEE Fellows were recognized.

Reaction to the combined Conference format is being gauged in a post-Conference e-mail poll. Initial reactions were generally positive with a significant minority expressing preference for the smaller, shorter, more "intimate" format of separate meetings. The next opportunity for a combined meeting will be in 2005 and the advisability of such a step is being considered by PSAC ExCom and the PPS&T Committee.

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